



CITY OF PROCTOR

BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

Prepared by the City of Proctor
Beautification & Trees Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission of the City of Proctor Beautification & Trees Committee: *Build community spirit and pride by promoting plant life, local art, and social activity on public property and rights of way.*

In 2018, the City of Proctor Beautification & Trees Committee developed a plan to guide the direction of future beautification efforts in the City of Proctor, Minnesota. The result is this document, which outlines details of realizing five specific projects the Committee wishes to pursue during 2018-2022. In order of priority, these projects include:

1. Second Street
2. City Ball Court
3. Highway Two/Third Avenue
4. TRAINquility Park
5. Kingsbury Creek

Additional “wish list” projects the Committee would like to pursue as the need and/or opportunity arise are included following the project sheets. Results of a survey administered to inform this plan is appended.

A Moment of Inspiration: Light Fixtures @ Enger Park, Duluth, MN

The Committee recommends installing human-scaled street light fixtures that aim light exclusively toward the ground. This type of lighting fits best practices for people-friendly places and night sky preservation.



PROJECT NO. 1

SECOND STREET

Goal: Enhance the Second Street corridor (from Klang Memorial Park to Proctor High School) to be an attractive, functional public space celebrating the Proctor community and serving transportation needs for community members of all ages.

Action Steps

1. Conduct a walk audit along Second Street to identify needs in the corridor and to collect a shared vision for streetscape development.
2. Work with city administration to remind homeowners of shared maintenance responsibilities in corridor.
3. Develop a plan outlining the community vision for Second Street, including considerations for updated stormwater management, landscaping, utilities, traffic controls, transportation facilities (i.e. accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, all-terrain vehicle drivers, and motorists), human-scaled street furniture (i.e. street lighting and benches), wayfinding signage, cultural references (i.e. street banners and interpretive signage), and corridor maintenance; partner with St. Louis County to consider improvements along Second Street east of Fifth Avenue and the City of Duluth to consider coordinated improvements on Orchard Street (especially for students on foot accessing Bay View Elementary School).
4. Implement projects outlined in the Second Street streetscape plan as funding becomes available; work with the City to identify opportunities for match funding to supplement any grant funding opportunities, and consider establishment of an improvement district.
5. Initiate shared responsibility of maintenance efforts, including enforcement of homeowner corridor maintenance responsibilities.
6. Support programming of the street with Walk to School events, parades, and other community gatherings.

Potential Partners: Proctor Schools (ISD 704), Proctor Area Historical Society, Proctor Safe Routes to School Team, Streets Department, Public Safety Committee, St. Louis County

Funding Opportunities: Streets budget, Local Road Improvement Program, Transportation Alternatives program, REA³D, crowdfunding

A Moment of Inspiration: Art and Banners @ Dinkytown, Minneapolis, MN

The Committee recommends the use of public art and large banners affixed to light poles to help travellers through Proctor easily recognize and connect with the culture of the Proctor community.



PROJECT NO. 2

CITY BALL COURT

Goal: Develop the City Ball Court (at the corner of 1st Avenue and 3rd Street) into a community gathering space that offers a sense of “place” and “playability” for all ages, and promote the space for community programming.

Action Steps

1. Hold a naming contest to bring attention to the Ball Court as a public space ideally located to serve families in the Proctor community.
2. Host a community event at the Ball Court to collect input on what features the community members want to see developed on the property. Give consideration to development of pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts; also give consideration to open-space models supporting multiple activities.
3. If necessary, hire a landscape architect to compile the community's vision into a visual rendering the community can embrace.
4. Seek funding to implement the community's vision of the Ball Court, with necessary features such as improved lighting, new sidewalks, new pavement (or alternative surfacing), and attractive fencing; work with the City to identify opportunities for match funding to supplement any grant funding opportunities.
5. Execute projects to develop the City Ball Court as funding becomes available.
6. Utilize the Ball Court to host events like National Night Out and Farmer's Markets to bring continual attention to the need for funding to continue developing the space.

Potential Partners: Parks and Recreation Committee, Botanical Gardens, Sinnott Blacktop, AGE to age

Funding Opportunities: Parks and Recreation budget, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Center for Prevention, Minnesota Power, crowdfunding

A Moment of Inspiration: Landscaping @ Shoppes at Arbor Lakes, Maple Grove, MN

The Committee recommends the purchase of large planters and the use of native plants and grasses that thrive in our natural climate along the Highway 2/3rd Avenue corridor. Large containers with native plantings will offer the ability to remove planters during winter months and limit the need for landscaping maintenance during summer.



PROJECT NO. 3

HIGHWAY TWO/THIRD AVENUE

Goal: Continue efforts to maintain and enhance the Highway Two/Third Avenue corridor (from Boundary Avenue to Railroad Avenue) with ongoing beautification programs, and initiate planning efforts which capture a shared community vision for the corridor to advise future highway resurfacing/reconstruction projects.

Action Steps

1. Contact MnDOT to request thinning/removal of vegetation on the hillside below the F-101 Voodoo Jet monument to restore sightlines of the jet for highway travelers.
2. Continue to apply seasonal beautification efforts (i.e. planted and potted flowers, garlands, wreaths, banners) in the downtown area along Highway 2, with a specific focus on the block between 2nd Street and 3rd Street. Purchase hanging planter baskets with reservoir self-watering systems for manageable maintenance, LED string lights, and benches and bicycle racks (requiring limited use permits from MnDOT) for installation in the downtown area.
3. Work with the Proctor Area Chamber of Commerce and business owners along 3rd Avenue to identify opportunities for partnerships with funding and management of downtown beautification effects. Develop a written memorandum of understanding to outline responsibilities, and consider founding a business improvement district to fund improvements.
4. Work with partners to develop a Downtown Revitalization Plan. Hire a landscape architect if needed and consider installing crosswalks at the intersection of Highway 2 and 2nd Street, installing human-scaled street lighting following "dark sky" practices, widening sidewalks, and planting street trees where possible.
5. Support and, if needed, initiate efforts to develop sidewalks on the north side of Highway 2 between 1st Street and Boundary Avenue, and between 6th Street and 3rd Avenue. Recommend planting of trees along the segment of Highway 2 between 3rd Avenue and 5th Street.
6. Monitor MnDOT's Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP) to monitor scheduled construction of the Highway 2 corridor.

Potential Partners: MnDOT, businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Public Safety Committee, Canadian National Railway

Funding Opportunities: Chamber of Commerce, donations from businesses, City budget, MnDOT, Transportation Alternatives program, crowdfunding

A Moment of Inspiration: DNE #16 Engine Display @ Fauley Park, Cloquet, MN

The Committee recommends enhancing the area around the Yellowstone #225 Engine and F-101 Voodoo Jet by constructing sidewalks increasing accessibility to and around the monuments, much like the City of Cloquet did with the addition of sidewalks around their open-air display of the Duluth & Northeastern #16 Engine.



PROJECT NO. 4

TRAINQUILITY PARK

Goal: Continue efforts to maintain TRAINquility Park, and partner with property stakeholders to develop the site into a wayside rest for tourists.

Action Steps

1. Partner with the Proctor Area Historical Society to initiate seasonal beautification efforts at the John P. Moody Gazebo, treating the structure as a centerpiece to the park.
2. Eradicate pigeons from roosting on/in the monuments, structures, and buildings in the park.. Consider employing chicken wire, bird spikes, bird repellent, or bird control professionals.
3. Recommend enclosure to hide portable toilet available for public use.
4. Collect input on what features community members want to see developed in TRAINquility Park, and hire a landscape architect to incorporate community input into a site plan. Give consideration to development of sidewalks connecting features, stormwater management, landscaping, visibility of monuments from Highway 2, site lighting, and parking accommodations.
5. Work with the City to identify internal streams of funding to implement the community's vision of TRAINquility Park
6. Execute projects to enhance the park as they can be worked into the City budget and supplemented by other grants and fundraising efforts.
7. Utilize TRAINquility Park to host events like the Proctor Winter Carnival and the ecumenical church services on Wednesday nights during summer.

Potential Partners: Parks and Recreation Committee, Proctor Area Historical Society, Proctor Golf Board, Proctor Lion's Club

Funding Opportunities: Tourism Fund, Parks and Recreation Budget, Proctor Lion's Club, Proctor Area Chamber of Commerce, REA3D, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, fundraising

A Moment of Inspiration: Hanging Flower Baskets @ Chestnut Avenue, Carlton, MN

The Committee recommends the use of hanging flower baskets in the 3rd Avenue/Highway 2 corridor like those installed on light poles on Chestnut Street in Carlton.



PROJECT NO. 5

KINGSBURY CREEK

Goal: Define the Kingsbury Creek corridor as an interactive water feature for the Proctor community, and partner with other city committees and community organizations to develop the corridor into a direct access to nature and natural beauty.

Action Steps

1. Work with the City of Proctor, St. Louis County, and MnDOT to install "Kingsbury Creek" signage at bridge crossings on 2nd Street, Boundary Avenue, Pionk Drive, and Highway 2.
2. Partner with the Parks and Recreation Committee to determine the extent of a shared vision for recreation in the corridor.
3. Approach the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other regional stream organizations about the possibility of natural surface trail development in the creek corridor, and inquire about Kingsbury Creek's status as a designated trout stream (and steps for designation removal if necessary) and how upstream efforts can help mitigate flooding in the Lake Superior Zoo area.

Potential Partners: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Committee, Duluth Streams, Regional Stormwater Protection Team, St. Louis County, Lake Superior Zoo

Funding Opportunities: Parks and Recreation Budget, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, City of Duluth

A Moment of Inspiration: Beautification @ Howard Street, Hibbing, MN

The Committee recommends Howard Street in Hibbing, with hanging flower baskets, trees, stylized lighting, painted crosswalks, and more, as a prime regional example of multiple beautification efforts tied into one streetscape.



“WISH LIST” PROJECTS

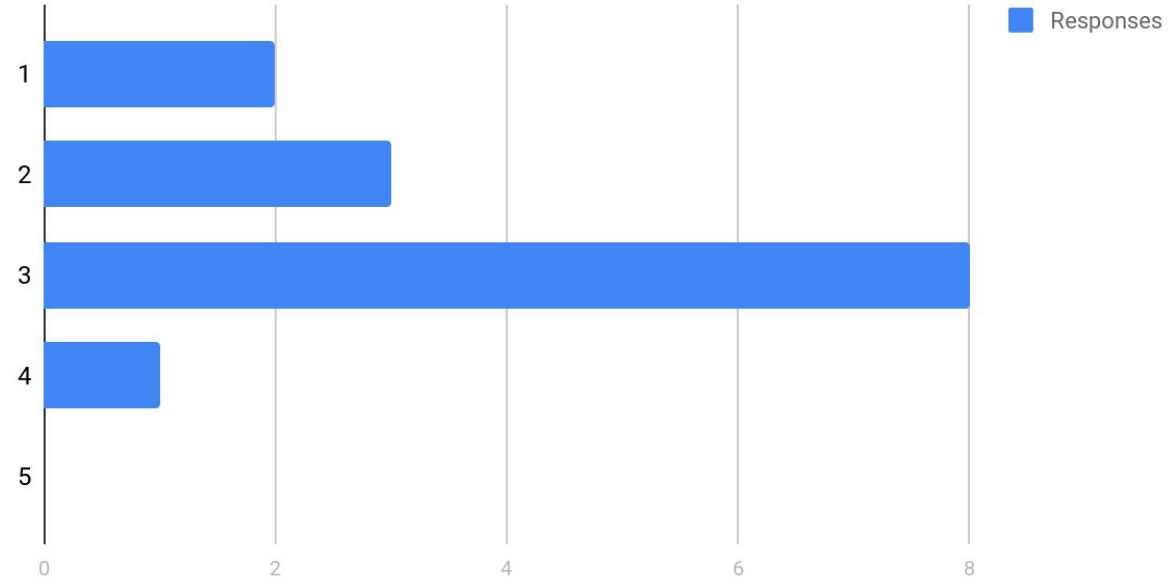
The following projects do not fit into priority geographic areas identified above, but will be addressed by the Committee as the need and/or opportunity arise. The projects are presented alphabetically by category below.

- **Community Clean-ups:** Partner with community organizations and businesses to conduct clean-up efforts each spring, with focused attention on the Highway 2 corridor and community parks. Also consider administering “adopt” programs.
- **Development:** Support development (i.e. housing, business, etc.) that is consistent with the character of existing neighborhoods and districts, and oppose the placement of manufactured housing in residential zones.
- **Gateways and Corridors:** Work with the Proctor Area Chamber of Commerce to develop a Gateways and Corridors Plan to outline a unified identity of signage, lighting, landscaping, banners, street furniture, and other accessories at the Highway 2, Boundary Avenue, and Lavaque Road gateways and corridors. And support efforts to include city branding.
- **Proctor Regional Recreation Area:** Work with the Parks and Recreation Committee to rehabilitate (and develop new) facilities at the Proctor Regional Recreation Area, including welcome and entrance signage. Strongly support efforts to install better lighting in the area, especially along the pathways and near the Playground for EveryBODY.
- **Public Art:** Support efforts to incorporate art into public realms of the community, and take inspiration from regional models of rotating public art like the Bemidji Sculpture Walk.
- **Railyard Aesthetics:** Collaborate with the Canadian National Railway and Sinnott Blacktop to enhance aesthetics of the Proctor Railyard as viewed from the Highway 2 corridor. Specifically address aesthetic issues related to powerline clutter, buffer strip vegetation management, and chain link fencing.
- **Sidewalks:** Conduct sidewalk maintenance evaluation at the beginning of each winter and summer by walking all City sidewalks and submitting recommendations to the City for maintenance and enforcement. Develop a system to distribute friendly reminders to residents of their shared responsibility in maintaining the sidewalk system, especially to ordinance offenders as a first warning. Also support efforts to develop a community pedestrian plan.
- **Trees:** Reinitiate work as the City's Tree Board and make formal recommendations to the city council on where and when trees should be planted, maintained, and removed, with special consideration for street trees in coordination with streets projects. Develop a Trees Plan to guide the City's Tree Program, using Tree City USA resources.
- **Vacant and Blighted Properties:** Work with the Proctor Economic Development Authority (PEDA) and the Planning and Zoning Committee to identify underutilized, vacant, blighted, and/or abandoned properties for development, rehabilitation, and/or demolition.

APPENDIX A: PROCTOR BEAUTIFICATION SURVEY RESULTS

In coordination with development of the 2017 City of Proctor Beautification Plan, the Proctor Beautification & Trees Committee administered a survey to collect input and ideas regarding beautification efforts in the Proctor community. Results from this survey are included below.

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate how attractive you feel the City of Proctor currently is.



Which place(s), area(s), and/or feature(s) in the City of Proctor do you feel look attractive? Please be specific.

- I enjoy the potted flowers and seasonal street light decor on hwy 2.
- 5th street with its large trees and newly paved street
- Pionk drive
- All over including outer areas
- The gazebo, train, and the museum, golf course.
- Flowers downtown
- The area around the train and museum and gazebo
- The garden below the golf course by the historical building, with the signs that hang along Highway two
- The light poles
- Flower beds, historic museum, but our town slogan totally needs to change
- I like the flowers and banners among the businesses on Hwy 2
- The green space by the museum

Which place(s), area(s), and/or feature(s) in the City of Proctor do you feel need visual improvement? Please be specific.

- The city ball fields were looking pretty run down when I was there this summer. Trash around, graffiti, worn out paint on buildings. I'm not sure if this falls under your area, but there should also be painted crosswalks at the stop light on hwy 2 downtown.
- main street is dreary and in poor repair, many homes need paint and repairs, sidewalks are often broken and many intersections lack street signs
- Hwy 2 drive through city corridor and along railroad yard
- Better lighting on main drag more attractive lighting
- Hwy2 and the new road that leads to the bars, and also up towards the laundromat, that whole area.
- Buildings are run down
- Highway 2 main corridor
- As you enter Proctor on Highway two and pass the railroad yard it looks so dumpy. I wish they would do something with that area. Lord knows they have the money. Perhaps you could stir them to do something.
- Klang Park
- The entire main drag and buildings need renovation
- There are storefronts that need new paint. Also the sidewalks leading to the HS are very poor on both sides.
- Everywhere else

What are your ideas to improve the place(s), area(s), and/or feature(s) you listed above as needing improvement? Please be specific.

- New paint for buildings and trash cans or cleanups.
- exploring grants might provide better signage
- Plant trees/shrubs along roadside. Decorative lighting. Large planters for flowers or plants and large hanging flower baskets.
- Main streets. Boundary lavaque hwy 2
- Flowers, benches, trees, memorials, USA flag, something to do with our history of the railroad.
- New development, landscaping, remodel business
- Huge beautiful plants like in city of Duluth but city needs to water everyday. Update facades of Main Street businesses.
- Plant natural ornamental grasses as in maple grove mn
- As you enter Proctor on Highway two and pass the railroad yard it looks so dumpy. I wish they would do something with that area. Lord knows they have the money. Perhaps you could stir them to do something.
- More of a Park like atmosphere to encourage families to gather. Flowers and trees need to be added. Picnic spots. Better playground and surfaces.
- Fines for outdated dilapidated buildings, no doublewides allowed outside zenith terrace, add charm back to the entire city with planting and loans to offset taxes to business that need to look better
- Help paint and encourage the city to fix sidewalks.